



# DISPOSITION

THE NEWSLETTER DEVOTED TO THE INITIATIVES OF THE GSA PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

“The first source of supply!”

**SUMMER 2001**

**DN-No. 25**

## GSA EXPO SHOWS TRUE COLORS!

The GSA International Products and Services Expo 2001 was held this past May 22-24 in Orlando, Florida, and if, symbolically, the expo was an art gallery, then the property management displays were simply masterpieces—full of color and variety. The property management delegation, hosted by the Southeast Sunbelt Region (4FD), showcased its program with an assortment of impressionistic

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demonstrations, ranging from free training on the auto-mated Federal Disposal System (FEDS) and property disposal solutions, to portrayals of the new

GSAAuctions.gov web site and *Disposition* newsletter. The three-day event was attended by a multitude of entities, including federal, state, and non-profit groups that, according to Cheryl Hall, director of the Region 4 property division, “packed” the property events with enthusiasm. The expo offered opportunities to interact in a collage of new and innovative property initiatives—from “FEDS” screening to sales options—that allowed attendees to coordinate with property associates. Overall, the GSA 2001 Expo was considered “picture perfect,” not only for its depiction of a dynamic property management program, but as an artistic gallery displaying the best of GSA. It was truly expressionistic!

## GSA WEATHERS “PERFECT STORM”

A good old “northeaster” was brewing this past spring in—of all places—the Northeast, when the General Services Administration came to the rescue. The U.S. Coast Guard cutter, Tamaroa, the actual ship made famous by the 2000 movie “The Perfect Storm” for rescuing survivors in the 1991 super storm off New England, was in need of saving itself. The vessel had managed to age gracefully over 50 years—from a World War II salvage tug to a coast guard vessel in the 1990’s—but was showing its age. Rather than see this nautical icon go to “Davy Jones’ Locker,” the GSA Southeast Sunbelt Property Management Division jumped into the tempest and, after the Tamaroa was declared “excess,” decided to test the waters of the new GSA’s sales program—GSAAuctions.gov. This idea made a splash, and before you could say, “She sells sea shells at the seashore,” the GSA conducted an auction, received twelve bids nationally, and issued an award to an Alabama-based company (GoForIt) for a winning bid of \$60,075. The vessel, which was housed in New York Harbor, was last reported by (you guessed it) The Weather Channel being towed to Boston Harbor for further commercial considerations.

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## Property Proverbs

“Society is no comfort to one not sociable.”

- William Shakespeare

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## **GSA CAPS FOREST FIRES NATIONWIDE**

The GSA Area Property Office in Hummelstown, Pennsylvania, transferred a supply of flyer's helmets this past spring from the DMRS Recycling Control Point (RCP) warehouse in New Cumberland, Pa, to the USDA Forest Service in Medford, Oregon, for forest fire management purposes in the American Northwest. A total of 1,875 dual visor, impact-type helmets, valued at \$ 1.1 million, were located by the Forest Service through use of the Federal Disposal System (FEDS), the automated excess property system operated nationwide by the GSA property management program. The helmets, all in A-1 condition, arrived just in time to supply the regional National Interagency Incident Cache for the busy "high fire danger" season across the country.

## **DOD GETS DISPOSAL IDEAS IN SAN DIEGO!**

A joint team of GSA property management personnel from Washington and San Francisco traveled in June to San Diego, California, to brief a Department of Defense (DOD) electronic working group on property disposal solutions. The team, led by the FSS Sales Chief, Victor Arnold-Bik, and Sales Chief of the Pacific Rim Region, Mark Jensen, outlined key facets of the program, including the GSAAuctions, Federal Disposal System (FEDS), and Agency Assets Management System (AAMS). Upon completion of the briefing, the group unanimously invited GSA as a voting member.

## **USA-FEPP Professional Workshop & Conference**

The 2001 Users and Screeners Association (USA) will hold its 11<sup>th</sup> annual Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) conference this year in Baltimore, Maryland, from July 31 through August 2, 2001. See the USA web site at <http://www.usa-fepp.org> for more information about this important event that offers key insight into the world of property management—from both a public and private perspective—and attracts property personnel from across the country. See you in Baltimore!

## **ALLOCATION ALMANAC**

Although it's not exactly "Poor Richard's Almanac," the monthly allocation indicator known as the "All State Allocation Grid" is informative and available from the Mid-Atlantic Region in Philadelphia to all interested entities. The "grid" contains facts and figures on the donation rates, historical records, and distribution percentages for all 50 states. You can access the grid at <http://www.midatlantic.gsa.gov/fss/property.donation.htm> to get your copy today. As the inimitable Ben Franklin of "Poor Richard's" fame once said, "The doors of wisdom are never shut." Just knock.

## **APO's HAVE MEETING OF THE MINDS!**

Yes, we know, when some people see the title of this article they'll simply chortle, and say, "When did the APO's get minds?" or exude some other remarks about the cerebrally - challenged. While we APO's appreciate being reduced to intellectual stereotypes, (good-naturedly, of course), we are also thinking machines who are aware that a new dynamic is needed in GSA that will bring Area Property Officers together to better serve customers. Accordingly, a taskforce of APO's from across the USA have been meeting to discuss the roles and direction of the APO's in addressing program initiatives. The taskforce has been focusing on the need for consistency in APO activities across the country, especially in conducting day-to-day functions, promoting GSA, and coordinating events across regional boundaries. The taskforce also has been seeking ways to better balance the APO jobs between "proactive" roles (promotional and training), and "reactive" roles (customer assistance and forms processing). While traditionally the APO has been aligned with the utilization and donation facets of the program—in a reactive role, the new role will be different and will include a multi-faceted approach. In fact, Dave Robbins, Chief, GSA Utilization and Donation Branch (FBPR), and head of the taskforce, indicated that there was a key need for the APO "to promote and represent the entire property management program . . . not utilization, not donation, not sales . . . the entire program." So, in the future customers can expect to see a different kind of APO (with wits intact, of course), at seminars, customer visits, and in the field, who will be more responsive to their needs and who will be as proactive and reactive as necessary to get things done effectively—to best represent the "entire" property program.

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## GSA SUPPORTS OUR AMERICAN HERITAGE!

It's always fulfilling to find a story that displays a real federal commitment to preserving our national heritage. Such is the case in GSA's support of the Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP) in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Over the past two years, the GSA property management program in Region 3 has provided significant support to the park to enable it to maintain the historical landscape, monuments, and structures that comprise the Gettysburg battlefield. Specifically, this property has involved several key items geared to preservation purposes, including industrial cable used for deconstructing an aging observation tower; a loader-backhoe used in landscaping projects; cabinets, and lockers needed for storing paints and preservation items; and considerable supplies of tools, accessories, and parts used for restoring artillery, cavalry, and infantry apparatus. These items, and others, have allowed the GNMP Maintenance Division to supplement its resources and keep pace with the demands placed on maintaining the over 5,000 acres, 1,300 monuments, and 400 cannons in the park. The GSA takes great pride in dedicating its property management efforts to helping to ensure the preservation of one of the great historical sites in America . . . a place that helps define us as a nation.

### GSA 101—BACK TO BASICS

Don't look now, but the GSA Property Management Division has been joining GSA Customer Service Directors from across the USA lately in getting federal customers "back to basics" in learning the value of doing business with GSA. GSA 101 courses have been held and certificates awarded for scores of customers who have learned about GSA catalog ordering, contract schedules, GSA Advantage, and "Planet GSA," and also about property programs like FEDS, the U & D process, and the new GSAAuctions.gov. When federal agencies see announcements about the GSA 101 in the future, they should be prepared to focus on personal property, because the Property Management Division wants to ensure that the learning experience includes a curriculum geared to meeting their property needs. Whether it's searching in FEDS or reviewing auctions, you're sure to get an "A" for effort when it comes to learning from GSA the most efficient ways to obtain and process federal personal property, everyday, and how to get the best value for your investment. So, don't delay! Sign up for the GSA 101 course closest to you and learn about the value of doing business with GSA . . . including the enlightening new programs in the Property Management Division. Don't be tardy! We'll see you in class.

## PROPERTY -- BY THE BOOK . . . . .

"All executive agencies must, to the maximum extent practicable, fill requirements for personal property by using existing agency property or by obtaining excess property from other federal agencies in lieu of new procurements."

(FMR, 102-36.35)

### GSA's PPC—A VALUABLE RESOURCE

For those few individuals who missed our special edition of *Disposition* featuring the GSA Personal Property Center (PPC), here's a bit of a reminder. The PPC is a vital and alternative solution for federal, state, and non-profit organizations when disposing of or obtaining personal property. The PPC, located just outside of Washington, DC, in Springfield, Virginia, serves the greater Washington area, including eastern Maryland and Virginia, in addressing the disposal needs of federal agencies. In effect, the PPC acts as a repository for deliveries of property by federal agencies looking for smart excessing options. Once property is delivered, the PPC takes over full accountability and control of the excessed items—saving the agencies time and cumbersome arrangements for outside screenings, customer visits, and storage—and then handles all of the details of the utilization, donation, and sales processes. It's that easy. The GSA subsequently offers the useable property to federal, state, and other entities at no costs, except for transport costs assumed by the customer. The PPC also houses the GSA Surplus Sales Center—a key program for "on-line" auctions, vehicle sales, and "drop-in" sales, as well as the Furniture Reclamation Center—a resource for restoring used furniture, providing new furniture and offering design solutions. So, don't miss the opportunities that abound from a visit to the PPC—just two miles off Exit 169A of U.S. Route 395/95 in Springfield, Virginia—a place that can solve your most complicated property needs. You'll be glad for this "personal" reminder. Phone: 703-557-5191; fax: 2670.

### PPC's HELP ENCOMPASSES ALL!

Speaking of the Personal Property Center—it seems this key GSA resource is not only a provider of property to customers in the East, but also to clients at all points of the compass. That's right! The PPC recently transferred 2,044 pieces of furniture valued at over \$330,000 to the Agency for International Development (AID) for needy AID programs in Europe, Central America, and the Caribbean. Talk about taking your program in a different direction. The PPC already goes *everywhere*!

## FEDS/RCP FACTS & FIGURES

For the latest on FEDS or RCP-related activity, call GSA or DRMS at the numbers listed below:

*GSA/FEDS: 1-888-377-2122*

[fss.gsa.gov/property](http://fss.gsa.gov/property)

*DRMS: 1-888-352-9333*

[www.drms.dla.mil](http://www.drms.dla.mil)

### ***The FEDS Forum***

***Devoted to the details & developments of the  
Federal Disposal System***

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**Q:** Can I report property to GSA without the hassle of manual reports like SF-120's, 126's?

**A:** Yes! All users of FEDS are encouraged to report excess property via the reporting screens of FEDS. This is a convenient and efficient way to get property information out to potential customers at both the federal (excess) and donation (surplus) screening levels. Agencies must control their own agency users, policies, and procedures. In addition, agency managers should ensure that as much pertinent information as possible is collected for each item—including details, dimensions, and any special features—prior to imputing the information into FEDS. Once the information is compiled, the actual input is quite easy and includes the creation of an **“Item Control Number”** for each property item. The item control number is simply the **activity address code** (six digits) of your department or the agency you represent; the **Julian date** (four digits prescribed by the FEDS) for the day/year the input is being completed; and, a **sequential number** (four digits, i.e., 0001, 0002, etc.) for each item. If needed, an agency can contact the local GSA Area Property Office or GSA Regional Office to request assistance or a site visit. So, why bother with paperwork? Get started on FEDS and “Free the world!” Eh, that is, we mean, free *yourself* from those manual forms.

Stay tuned next issue for another informative chapter in the property saga known as . . . ***The FEDS Forum***

## A PREVIEW OF STATE REVIEWS!

Various state and federal property personnel from the eastern half of the USA met in Washington, DC, in June for training on the “state review” process. The training, conducted by Joseph Hvorecky, deputy director of property in Region 3, included a study of the policies and strategies involved in the review process—a process in which GSA examines the operations of a state agency for surplus property (SASP) to determine program effectiveness. In particular, the training dealt with three main areas: “compliance,” to confirm whether an SASP is conforming with federal regulations; “eligibility,” to verify if program participants (i.e., customers obtaining surplus donations) are complying with program requirements; and the review process itself, to outline the policies and guidelines established for conducting the review. In practice, the review process is an intensive, one-week examination by a team of GSA employees that “reviews” key elements of a state program, including invoicing, management practices, the handling and storage of surplus property, and others. Ultimately, the team compiles and reports all findings, complete with recommendations and requirements. Although the review encompasses twenty separate areas of state operations, it focuses on four primary facets, including “Property and Inventory Control,” “Financing and Service Charges,” “Eligibility,” and “Compliance and Utilization.” The task for overseeing the reviews now resides in the East with Region 3 in Philadelphia (for regions 1 through 5), and in the West with Region 6 in Kansas City (for regions 6 through 10).

## SOUTH DAKOTA GETS FLOOD RELIEF!

The GSA Region 3 Property Management Division recently transferred some emergency property to the South Dakota State Agency for Surplus Property for flood-relief purposes in the state. The property, valued at over \$125,000, included items such as a rough terrain loader, cargo truck, 15-ton industrial trailer, tool kits, coveralls, entrenching tools, gloves, hoses, ponchos, and other items. The transfer came in response to a special request authorized in May by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. GSA property offices across the USA are responding in similar fashions to other states in the Southeast and Southwest that were inundated in June with floodwaters spawned by Tropical Storm Allison.

### ***° Disposition Newsletter °***

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